WEDDING SPEECH

FOR

FRANCIS BAION

Hello everyone!! It is such an honor to be here to celebrate this very special wedding. I am so proud to be the uncle of our beautiful bride, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and even more thrilled to act as your “host” and “MC. …Usually, that stands for Master of Ceremonies, but since this wedding is so unique and such a delight to experience, for this occasion, I declare that **MC** will stand for **MASTER OF CELEBRATION**!! Today will be a celebration of love, family, and life, as it should be EVERY DAY... only today we get to dress up in our fancy clothes and sing and dance and raise a glass or 2 to honor our new family and the future. Many people have traveled from many different places to share this moment. This is a truly global celebration, and each stop on the route of this “Love Plane” adds to the richness and joy we all share together as we witness and celebrate this union. Think of how blessed we all are!! Just imagine…My sister, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and brother-in-law, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our bride’s mother, father, and I grew up in Africa, (**Name the bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was born and raised in London, here we are in beautiful Barbados, where our handsome groom, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, is from, I’ve come here from sunny California, and so many of you are from far and wide as well!!

Since this is such a global celebration, I want to say a few words to acknowledge all of the lands that have acted as our homes and brought us here today. First of all, I want to remind all of you of the African proverb that teaches us, “Being happy is better than being King.” Wow!!! If that’s the case, and it is, we’re all wealthy beyond compare, and may our bride and groom be the richest of all as they bathe in love and the light of happiness. And speaking of royalty, it’s a good thing that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have chosen to get married **THIS** year!!! Forget about the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge!! That wedding was sooo 2011!! **THIS**, ladies’ and gentlemen, is **THE** wedding of 2012!!! And what can we say about our magnificent host country? Barbados has embraced us and kissed us with its warm sunshine, gentle breeze and welcoming friends. The vibrant Caribbean colors that embrace us contribute to the joy we are all experiencing on this wonderful island. This place is truly a paradise and it’s a gift to be here with all of you at this wonderful celebration.

As I look around the room, I am astounded and enchanted by all of the beauty surrounding us today. The bridal party looks especially striking and creates the perfect frame for our beautiful bride, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and her handsome groom, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (**Name the bride**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as I said earlier, I am so proud to have witnessed you blossom into a beautiful young lady and now you’re a married woman! I am proud of our African heritage and I am even more proud and blessed to be part of this wonderful family. Thanks to you and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, our legacy will live on in the minds and hearts of all of us and our children, like you, and our children’s children. As the words of another African proverb teaches us, “Love, like rain, does not choose the grass on which it falls,” and also in the words of the famous British group, the Who, “LOVE, reign o’er me!!!” Loved **rained** on the 2 of you and brought you together, and it also **reigns** supreme! Additionally, I want to acknowledge my wonderful sister, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who did such a beautiful job of raising my remarkable nieces and nephew. You are a very special sister and an even more incredible mother!

As I said, I am proud of our African culture, and I wanted to share some more wisdom from some of the different corners of our mother continent.

* From Burundi we learn, “Where there is love, there is no darkness.”
* In Cameroon, people are taught, “ If love is a sickness, patience is a remedy.
* And of course it’s easy to say this on a day when we all look SO GORGEOUS, but in Uganda, people say, “He who loves you, loves you with your dirt!” (**Wait for the laugh**)

Yes, we come from a deep, rich and wise culture, and a LARGE part of who we are is our ability to embrace life and CELEBRATE!!! I think I’ve said enough at this point, but I’ll be back throughout the festivities to keep the party going! Before I go, let me share the words of William Shakespeare, a fine son of our bride and grooms chosen home. To \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ “I wish you all the joy you can wish” and I am sure everyone here agrees with me on THAT one!

Let’s get those engines of the **Love Plane** started!!!

(**Begin your first introduction**)